

# The Library Assistant:

*The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### EXCURSION TO EPPING FOREST.

As announced last month an excursion to Epping Forest has been arranged for Wednesday, July 8th. Mr. G. E. Roebuck (Chief Librarian, Walthamstow), a former esteemed Hon. Secretary of the L.A.A., whose interest in the Association is as keen as ever, is kindly acting as host, and as he is entering very heartily into the arrangements for the visit, it is hoped that there will be a large gathering.

Members and friends will leave Liverpool Street Station by the 3.32 train, booking to Hoe Street (cost, 8d. return), where they will detrain and proceed to Walthamstow Town Hall. Here they will be formally received by members of the District Council, and afterwards entertained to tea. At 5 p.m. the journey to Chingford will be resumed via Church End and Wood Street, taking train at the latter place. Arrived at Chingford the party will stroll through the most picturesque part of the Forest to High Beech.

Those who have already visited Epping Forest should be glad of this opportunity of spending another afternoon there. To those who are not acquainted with this beautiful spot, the magnificence of the scenery will probably come as a revelation.

In order that satisfactory arrangements may be made for catering, Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead, will be glad to have, at the earliest possible moment, the names of those who propose joining the party.

### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION, 1909.

The special period set by the Council for next year's examination in Literary History is from 1830 to 1870. Students, however, should bear in mind that only one of the two papers will be devoted to this period, the other dealing with Literary History in general. It is hoped that arrangements will again be made for the admission of Library Association students to a course of lectures covering the period at King's College.

### L.A.A. LIBRARY.

Recent donations, from their respective authors, per the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers):—

Rye (R.A.), Paper on the Libraries of London. 76 pp.

University of London: General information respecting the Library, South Kensington. 1907. 15 pp.

Hopwood (H. V.), Dewey expanded. 16 pp. (Reprinted from "The Library Association Record," June, 1907).

Sayers (W. C. B.), Some principles of Classification. 7 pp. (Reprinted from "The Library Assistant," March, 1908).

### APPOINTMENT.

Mr. HARRY P. BROADHURST, Third Assistant, Central Library, Stockport, to be Librarian-in-Charge of the Reddish Branch.

## THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT'S OUTLOOK FROM A PROVINCIAL POINT OF VIEW.\*

By G. W. STROTHER, *Public Libraries, Leeds.*

In the consideration of this subject which depends upon, or is very largely influenced by, local conditions, some of the opinions expressed may be open to controversy, but at the same time they are a sincere attempt to put forward a statement of the hopes and fears, the doubts and difficulties of the assistant in the provinces. Some persons may consider that the outlook of the provincial assistant is identical with that of the Londoner; this in many respects is undoubtedly true, yet there are certain differences which have a very important bearing on the question, and there are advantages and facilities which the assistant in the metropolis possesses over his provincial confrere.

A significant factor which must not be overlooked in discussing this subject, is the extraordinary inability of the lay mind to grasp the character of the work of the librarian. The public generally seem to have no conception of the qualifications necessary for the efficient organisation of libraries. When a doctor, lawyer, architect, or a member of any of the better known professions is spoken of, the man in the street immediately conjures up a fairly accurate idea of the character of his work, and of his status, but when a librarian is brought under observation, beyond recognising the fact that he is a person in some way connected with a collection of books, the impression is a very nebulous one. This charge, I am afraid, must also be made against many members of library committees. It is a deplorable state of affairs, and in its effect, militates against the progress and improvement of the outlook of library assistants. As an instance of this lamentable condition of things the following incident is illuminative. Recently, a candidate for the post of librarian of a small town, the salary of which was much less than £100 per annum, was asked among other questions, whether he was able to lecture on Geology! Surely this is a peculiar aspect of the duties of librarianship.

I suppose that if the question, What is meant by the outlook? were put to library assistants, the most frequent answer would be, The hope a person has of attaining a position in some way approaching to that of the more recognised professions. Those who contemplate entering the library profession desire to know if the position attainable is likely to be

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\*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association.

of a sufficiently remunerative character to justify their taking up this instead of any other profession, and if so, what opportunities and facilities exist to enable them to reach the goal. I think it will be agreed that this is the most common method, even if in some cases it is unconsciously done, of arriving at an answer to the question, Shall I become a library assistant?

How, therefore, are we to arrive at the answer? It will perhaps be well, before looking into the future, to cast our thoughts back to the past, and also to see what are the conditions at the present day. The first Public Libraries Act was passed over fifty years ago, and since that time approximately some 600 library authorities have adopted the Acts, although many of these occupy the anomalous position of having gone no further than the adoption of the Acts. Why is this? No doubt owing, in many cases, to lack of funds, a thing surely incomprehensible in an age when Education is in the forefront of the legislation of the country. Unfortunately, this state of affairs, much as it is to be deplored, narrows down very considerably the field which is open to anyone entering upon library work. It is unsafe to include more than two-thirds of the number quoted in our survey, therefore we may take it that about 400 public libraries exist in the United Kingdom. Many of these can only be thought of in connection with the apprenticeship of the assistant, because in a great number of cases, the income from the rate will not permit the payment to the librarian, not to mention the assistant, of a salary as large as the wage of a skilled artizan. If any improvement is to be hoped for in this direction, it must of necessity come from within. It must always be the earnest endeavour of every assistant, by becoming more efficient, to compel the community in which he is placed to realise that the library is not only a subsidiary to the education system of the country, but is a very necessary part of it; and when such effect has been produced, undoubtedly the status of the library assistant will advance in the estimation of the public in like ratio, and then the assistant may look for financial consideration, which at present is most unsatisfactory.

There are two classes of assistants whose claims must be considered. 1st. That class composed of men whose great fault is that they gained their knowledge of librarianship in the school of experience. To those to whom this word is the proverbial "red rag to the bull," it must be said that this large section of assistants can justly claim serious and generous consideration, because they have borne the heat and burden of the day during the early years of the library movement; and many

of them now hold responsible positions in large libraries and are a power in the provinces. They feel very keenly the academic progress in the profession, which is only natural, having spent the younger and studious part of their lives at a time when classes in library economy and other educational facilities did not exist. They feel, too, that they may not enter into academic competition for the reason that should they fail to do themselves justice in the examination room, and are ploughed, then the whole of their lives' work has been placed in jeopardy, although their greatest fault is that they were born too soon.

The second class is entirely different. When the young man or woman who, after looking round for some means of earning a livelihood (because after all, however we may write or talk about ideals, this is the first consideration) enters the library service, he or she is immediately brought into close relationship with a new condition of things. Probably by the good offices of an enthusiastic senior, the budding assistant has brought prominently before him the ever rapidly increasing technical literature. It is also borne in upon him by many and various indications that if he intends to make librarianship his vocation, he must immediately take up a systematic course of study to fit him for the struggle for the plums of the profession, which alas are few, and those not very fine fruit. Therefore he enters on his career with full information as to the future, and all this inevitably tells him that great progress is being made, and that it will be necessary for him to have much greater knowledge and wider culture than were necessary heretofore, if he is to hope for success.

Having now stated definitely, and it is hoped clearly, the two classes of assistants with claims to consideration, we must pass on to see if the outlook has points which may appeal to both satisfactorily.

For the first class of assistant, undoubtedly the proper and best way of overcoming their difficulties is registration in some form or other. It would brighten their outlook to a considerable extent. Some assistants may be afraid of this view because of cases in which this course of action would, in their opinion, allow an unworthy assistant to be given professional status. This may occur, but all things must have a beginning, and if a register were established, it would I think be possible to erect the profession of librarianship as an edifice with a more substantial foundation than it has. At present there is only one diplomate, and the great bulk of persons engaged in the work are outside the pale of the profession; only so far as the

youthful element is concerned is there any hope of their becoming eligible for admission to the fold. The future of the second class of assistant, that is, the one just entering upon his career is very different. In most libraries is now found some attempt at scientific working, an intelligent knowledge of library practice, and a struggle for improvement in every branch of the work.

The greatest difficulty to be overcome in the provinces is the question of providing educational facilities, and the present lack of opportunity for theoretical as distinct from practical training. Where may the provincial assistant look for guidance? For the moment the only course open is the Correspondence Classes of the Library Association, which, however admirable they may be as a substitute for the ordinary classes, have many shortcomings, and are regarded as unsatisfactory by many who have joined them. It is here that we come to the crux of the whole question of the outlook. In the provinces the possibility of obtaining tuition in the subjects of the syllabus of the Library Association has not existed thus far, although it is hoped that this defect will be remedied in the very near future. In some of the larger towns an effort is being made to induce the University authorities to fill the place of that admirable centre, the London School of Economics, which is no doubt responsible in a very great degree for the great advance made in London, and it is hoped that Leeds University will inaugurate classes in the next winter session. The question then arises, when these classes are announced, how can they be made a success? The only way to do so, will be for some scheme to be formulated whereby the geographical conditions can be overcome, thus making it possible for assistants who are not situated in a University town to attend the classes which may be held in closest proximity to them. The assistants in any one town cannot hope to recompense the authorities for the expense of establishing the classes. In this connection committees might well be asked to grant facilities for attending the classes in library time, and to pay the fees of the assistants. In some places this is already done. This request is certainly not unreasonable, having regard to the poor salaries paid. There is also the almost entire lack of cohesion in the policy of libraries in the different towns in the provinces, which makes the foregoing difficult. There are distinct signs, thanks to the existence of Branches of the Library Assistants' Association, that this may be done away in the near future, and then the library assistant in the provinces may hope for rapid improvement and ever-growing recognition.

After considering very carefully the whole question of the library assistant and his outlook, the only conclusion I can come to is that every improvement must proceed from assistants themselves. It must be the aim of every assistant not only to be efficient, but to compel the public to recognise that libraries are in reality an integral part of the educational machinery of the country, and not merely institutions which distribute recreative reading matter. Library committees in their control of libraries must be made to feel that they administer an important part of our municipal life. In many places, I am afraid, the library committee is looked upon as the Cinderella in the Municipalities, and the library is considered a department of civic activity in which not much harm can be done, inasmuch as the spending capacity is strictly limited by the Library Acts. The monetary cost of the upkeep of libraries is altogether a false basis on which to form a just estimate of their value.

In the meantime the salvation of the library assistant in the provinces is, to a great extent, the Library Assistants' Association. Its influence in Yorkshire has certainly been a beneficent one, and I commend it to all provincial assistants who are not yet members. By thus organising we are enabled to bring before committees and the public a new view of our work, which when thoroughly understood will uplift the status of the assistant, and the effect of this will be to make the outlook a pleasant one, instead of one full of doubts and difficulties.

My last appeal is to present members of our Association. When they become librarians they should do their utmost in the libraries they control, and urge their brother librarians to help the assistant and to educate library committees in the fact that assistants do exist and are necessary in a library.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a statement on page 127 of your journal, dated this month, where, in a discussion on the Central Control of Libraries, Mr. Hogg is reported as crediting Kensington with an income of £9,956, for some year not stated. I have little doubt that, had he the power, Mr. Hogg would double our income in reality, as he has in imagination. In the meantime I can only thank him, and if he will allow me, correct him. Our income for the year 1907, presumably that meant, was, from rate, £4,976, from all other sources £132. That is a little more than half of Mr. Hogg's generous figures.

Without attaching undue importance to arguments based on statistics alone, it will be agreed that statistics when given should at least be accurate.

HERBERT JONES, Chief Librarian.

Kensington Public Libraries.  
June 8th, 1908.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association was held at the Islington Central Library, by kind invitation of the Islington Libraries' Staff Club, on Wednesday, June 10th. For some unaccountable reason the attendance was not so large as at the past two annual meetings, only some sixty members being present. Messrs. G. W. Strother and J. B. Ellison, of Leeds, Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively of the Yorkshire Branch, attended as delegates.

Members began to assemble at the Library about 4.30 p.m., and were conducted over the building in parties by several members of the staff. After a thorough inspection of the various departments, tea was hospitably served in the Committee Room.

At 6.30 o'clock a meeting was held in the large hall to hear a paper on "The Library Assistants' Outlook from the Provincial Point of View," by Mr. G. W. Strother, which is printed in this number. The Chair was occupied by Mr. W. Benson Thorne, who, in calling upon Mr. Strother to read his paper, extended to him and to Mr. Ellison, a most cordial welcome.

#### Discussion.

Mr. Chambers, in opening the discussion, said that Mr. Strother had treated the subject from a sympathetic point of view and had clearly indicated some of the difficulties with which he (Mr. Strother) and his confreres had to contend. Regarding the professional education of the assistant, he could not altogether agree with Mr. Strother that it was necessary to provide classes; he was of opinion that students would do better if they studied privately, in which case they would have the advantage of devoting to study the time that would otherwise be spent in travelling to and from the classes. If ever he thought of entering for examinations he would certainly study privately.

Mr. Young thought that the somewhat pessimistic views of Mr. Strother were a good sign because they showed that he was not content with things as they were. Mr. Strother had said much about the education of Committees, but he thought that an assistant's technical education depended largely on the qualifications of the librarian.

Mr. Stewart favoured Mr. Young's view that a librarian had more influence over the assistant than a Committee had. In a library where one found an enthusiastic librarian, there one also found an enthusiastic staff, and the library was altogether on a higher plane than a library controlled by a

librarian who was not enthusiastic. The library profession would improve by a simple evolutionary process as the present assistants gradually became librarians.

Mr. Thorne moved that a very hearty vote of thanks be accorded Mr. Strother for preparing his paper and for being present in order to read it, and with this vote he coupled the name of Mr. Ellison.

Mr. Sayers, in seconding, said that the difficulties of the provincial members were extremely real, and one of the greatest of these was that of geographical position. With regard to the L. A. classes he did not think any one should speak disparagingly of them. The mere fact that a man could say, for example, that he was trained in the University of Leeds would give him a greater standing in the eyes of the public. He thought that librarians should try to induce their Committees to pay the expenses of assistants who desired to attend the classes as is done in one or two of the London libraries.

The vote having been put to the meeting was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Ellison acknowledged the vote and thanked the meeting for the cordial manner in which Mr. Strother and he had been received. In reference to the establishment of L.A. classes in the provinces, he thought much good work might be accomplished if the Library Association would reduce the minimum number of students at present necessary for the formation of a centre. If this were done there would be no difficulty in arranging at once three or four centres in the provinces. He did not think library committees in the provinces would ever agree to pay the expenses of assistants who desired to attend the classes.

Mr. Strother also expressed his pleasure at being present at the meeting and briefly replied to the points raised in the discussion. With regard to the tuition of assistants, he attached great importance to the benefits to be derived from contact with the teacher; assistants must inevitably get broader ideas from such contact. He thought that if the Library Association were going to develop the scheme of providing educational centres for provincial assistants, they should endeavour to select representative teachers and not simply men who had experience.

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The chair having been taken by Mr. Thorne, the minutes of the Twelfth Annual Meeting were read and confirmed, after which



Mr. Chambers sympathetically referred to the sad bereavement which Mr. H. Tapley Soper had sustained by the death of his wife, and moved that a vote of condolence be sent to Mr. Soper. The vote was carried in silence.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the Thirteenth Annual Report (printed in the June number of "The Library Assistant"). The Hon. Secretary seconded, and the report was adopted.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. Chambers to move, on behalf of the retiring Committee, the amendments to the Rules of which notice had been given.

Mr. Chambers explained that the existing Rules were virtually those framed by the Association thirteen years ago, though several attempts had been made to bring them up-to-date. But these attempts had convinced the Committee of the necessity of a radical re-arrangement. Only a slight alteration of Rule 2 was suggested and this was to give the premier position to the word "professional," as the Association was primarily a professional one. The suggested Rule 3 was more drastic. It was proposed to introduce a new grade by the title of Fellows. Some connecting link was wanted between the librarians who had been members of and workers for the Association, but who, in the opinion of the Committee had not done sufficient work to merit an Honorary Fellowship. The amendment to Rule 4 was self-explanatory. Regarding the proposed Rule 5, Mr. Chambers said that an Association of 400 members, with several branches, each of which had a Committee, deserved something more dignified than a Committee, and therefore it was proposed to have a Council. The Committee had suggested that not more than two members from one library district should be elected because they felt that representatives should be spread out as far as possible throughout the whole country, and not confined, as was possible under the present Rule, to one or two library districts. Very little alteration to Rule 6 was necessary. Under the existing Rule a special general meeting could only be called upon the requisition of twenty members; this number was considered unduly large, hence the reduction to twelve members.

Mr. Sayers seconded.

The suggested alterations were considered seriatim, and after some discussion and further amendment were agreed to. The complete Rules as revised are printed in this number.

The Hon. Secretary then announced the result of the ballot for Council as below. The Officers were re-elected:—

## OFFICERS.

*President* : Mr. W. Benson Thorne, Bromley Library, Poplar.

*Hon. Treasurer* : Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Plumstead.

*Hon. Secretary* : Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Croydon.

## COUNCIL.

LONDON.	VOTES.	NON-LONDON.	VOTES.
<i>Elected.</i>		<i>Elected.</i>	
Smith, H., Bishopsgate Inst. ...	151	Strother, G. W., Leeds ...	113
Stewart, J. D., Islington ...	145	Sureties, H. G., Hornsey ...	101
Young, J. D., Greenwich ...	143	Gourley, R. J., Belfast ...	98
Coutts, H. T., Islington ...	142	Herdman, D. W., Sunderland ...	82
Stephen, G. A., St. Pancras ...	142	Ross, J., Sunderland ...	82
Hopwood, H.V., Patent Office ...	133	Harrison, Miss M., Leeds ...	81
Bullen, R. F., Poplar ...	113	Law, W., Brighton ...	80
Hogg, J. F., Battersea ...	105	Purnell, H. R., Croydon ...	76
Duménil, Miss R., Hackney ...	90	Faraday, J., Hornsey ...	71
Hawkins, W. G., Fulham ...	86	Sleight, J. G., Hull ...	71
<i>Not elected.</i>		<i>Not elected.</i>	
Gilbert, Miss M., Fulham ...	81	Handby, J. C., Bradford ...	70
Bursill, P. C., Woolwich ...	61	Poulter, H. W., Walthamstow ...	64
Peters, H. R., Lewisham ...	43	Stevenson, H., Bournemouth ...	57
Fletcher, E. G., Stepney ...	35	Wright, R., Croydon ...	56
Moslin, A. M., Stepney ...	32	McCombe, A. C., East Ham ...	44
Eidmans, F., Bermondsey ...	19	Perry, J. D., Leyton ...	39
Davison, C. E., Bermondsey ...	15	Crook, B., Leyton ...	34
		Stone, O. W., East Ham ...	34
		Sunley, H. G., Leyton ...	25

Mr. R. A. Peddie moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Committee. He said that good work had been accomplished by the Committee, and the Association could congratulate itself very much on its present position. The amendments to the Rules which had just been carried would place the Association on a broader and more professional basis.

Mr. H. V. Hopwood seconded, and Mr. Chambers, as the senior officer, responded.

The President before vacating the chair proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Islington Libraries' Staff Club for having entertained the members so well, and to Mr. James Duff Brown for allowing the meeting to be held at the Central Library. Mr. Sayers in seconding the vote coupled with it the names of Messrs. Coutts, McGill, and Stewart.

The vote was carried unanimously, and Mr. Brown, on behalf of the Club, acknowledged the vote and expressed the pleasure he had had in welcoming for the second time at Islington the Library Assistants' Association.

## NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

**Inaugural Meeting.**

The Inaugural Meeting of the North Eastern Branch of the Library Assistants' Association was held at the Central Public Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Wednesday evening, June 3rd, 1908. There was a most gratifying attendance of nearly fifty members. Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers was present as the representative of the central Association.

Tea, by invitation of the senior members of the Newcastle staff, was pleasantly served by some of the lady assistants, and the graceful and efficient way in which visitors were attended to was the subject of a hearty vote of thanks later in the evening.

At a meeting of the Committee which was the next item on the programme, the Hon. Secretary (Mr. T. E. Turnbull) reported a membership of 46, comprising 18 senior and 28 junior assistants. This was considered highly satisfactory as a first report on membership. As a result of the election of Mr. Harrison Burgess (South Shields) to the Committee, all the sub-librarians of the group of northern libraries are now identified with, and hold office in, the North Eastern Branch.

Mr. Basil Anderton, B.A. (Public Librarian, Newcastle), then welcomed the members at a meeting in the Lending Library. He spoke encouragingly of the Branch's future, and heartily wished it success. In forming such an Association, he said, there were new difficulties and new risks, but there were also new benefits to all concerned. He congratulated the members on their officers in whose hands he was confident the Branch would prosper.

Mr. D. W. Herdman (Chairman of the Branch) in introducing Mr. Sayers extended to him a hearty welcome, and spoke of his energy and good-fellowship.

Mr. Sayers then delivered an address on "Our Place among the Professions." He spoke of the advantage to the Secretary of such an Association as the L.A.A. getting into more personal touch with the members, and said it had been his peculiar privilege to address the Branches in Yorkshire and South Wales, and now he had the opportunity of meeting the members of the North East. He did not, however, come to lecture them. Mr. Sayers went on to say that there were some noble professions, whilst others were not so noble. He instanced the priest, physician, and soldier as members of professions which we not only respect, but which we consider essential. On the other hand, in the case of the accountant, banking man and lawyer, personal profit was perhaps more

the objective. Librarianship was one of the oldest professions in the world. The public librarian of to-day, however, was a creation of the nineteenth century, rendered necessary by the Act of 1850. What, though, were the librarians of the early days? Generally the derelicts of other professions. Great advances had been made, but too often status was made dependent on salary, with which it had no concern. Librarians lined-on better with the soldier and clergy than with other professions, in that the wage was not commensurate with the work. English librarianship was manacled by the rate limit, but this limit would undoubtedly be increased in the future. In fifty years' time people would look upon librarians as something really worthy of their best respect. Mr. Sayers then touched upon the education of librarians, and said that a liberal profession involved liberal culture. He mentioned the Universities which were taking up the teaching of librarianship. He said that although library assistants were often drawn from the elementary schools, yet these schools were to-day better than the high schools of thirty years ago. Assistants should be educated up to London University Matriculation standard, but he questioned whether they should pass the rest of their time in passing academic examinations. It was not sufficiently recognised that when a boy came into a library he had to pay for his training; the unwillingness of boys to do this had resulted in the employment of girls and women, who should have the same remuneration as male assistants. The same quality of work should, however, be required of them. Women's work with children had been wholly good. Mr. Sayers ended by advocating some system of registration for librarians.

Mr. I. Briggs (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) had prepared a paper entitled "Concerning the Juvenile Library," but was prevented by illness from being present to read it. It was decided to send a message of sympathy to Mr. Briggs, and Mr. J. Walton (Newcastle) kindly read the paper. The writer began by considering the object of a juvenile library, and found it different from that of an adult library. The one, he said, was almost entirely formative, while the other was informative; that view involving the elementary psychological principle that children were not diminutive men and women. He argued that while the adult mind had reached its highest stage, the child-mind was a succession of stages, hence the need for the graduation of literature in the juvenile library. The books, therefore, must be classified in a succession of stages, each chosen to display a certain condition of learning. He thought the school



Supplement to —————  
"The Library Assistant,"  
July, 1908. —————



**MR. WM. BENSON THORNE,**  
*Chairman, 1906-8, and first President of the Library  
Assistants' Association.*

was the proper place for books suitable for children up to 14 years old, owing to the teacher having the requisite psychological knowledge. He would admit to the benefits of the library only boys and girls of at least 10 years of age, whilst as to the age of translation from the juvenile to the adult department he favoured 16, in agreement with the opinion of a schoolmaster whom he had consulted. Mr. Briggs next dealt with juvenile book selection, and concluded by remarking that perhaps what he had adumbrated was idealistic, but that everything worthy had its ideal.

In the discussion, Mr. Herdman thought that Mr. Briggs' remarks with reference to the formative rather than informative nature of juvenile reading should be endorsed. He advocated an earlier age of admission than did the writer of the paper. Mr. Wilson (Gateshead) favoured the provision of good-class picture books, and said he had enjoyed the paper on psychological grounds. Miss Forman (Victoria Branch, Newcastle) thought the most pleasant part of her work was perhaps that with juvenile readers. Mr. Sayers said he was extremely broad-minded on this subject. Books should be both in libraries and in schools and children's reading should be unrestricted. He thought the paper they had just heard was most admirable and should be printed. If it was an earnest of papers to be read before the Branch, then the Branch had a happy future. Messrs. Yates, Pearson, Turnbull, and Ross also spoke.

Votes of thanks (including one to the L.A.A. and Mr. Sayers) concluded a very interesting and successful meeting.

#### SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, the members of the South Wales Branch visited the Ely Paper Mills at Cardiff, by kind permission of the proprietors, Messrs. Thomas Owen and Co., Ltd. Among those accompanying the members were Mr. J. Ballinger (Chief Librarian, Cardiff), Mr. Harry Farr (Cardiff, Chairman of the Branch), and Miss Hamlet (Librarian, Penarth).

The party was received and conducted over the works by Mr. D. W. Henry, whose extensive knowledge of the paper-making industry helped to make the visit most interesting and instructive.

Large stacks of wood-pulp were shown, and then, step by step, the processes through which the pulp passes until it becomes paper—beating, bleaching, dyeing, etc. From one machine, which cost nearly £15,000 to instal, paper 120 inches

wide was being run off at the rate of 500 feet per minute. The calendering or ironing process for glazing the paper was then explained to the visitors, who afterwards passed through the cutting and sorting departments and finally through the extensive warehouses. About 500 tons of paper are manufactured at the Mills each week, and the rate of output is about 20,000 feet per minute.

At the close, Mr. Ballinger heartily thanked Mr. Henry on behalf of those present.

#### IRISH BRANCH.

The First Annual Meeting of the Association of Assistant Librarians of Ireland was held at the Central Public Library, Belfast, on Wednesday, June 10th, Mr. R. J. Gourley (Chairman) presiding.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. T. Coulson), and Hon. Treasurer (Mr. W. Rowan), submitted their Annual Reports, the latter reporting a balance in hand, and the same were adopted.

The Officers were re-elected, Mr. W. Moore consenting to act as joint Hon. Secretary, and the following Committee was elected: Miss N. Farrell (Belfast Municipal Technical Institute Library), and Messrs. Goldsborough, A. H. E. Moore and Simpson (Belfast Public Libraries).

A resolution was passed fixing October 1st as the latest date for paying subscriptions for the year.

#### SOCIAL EVENING.

The Conversazione and Dance which took place at St. Bride Institute on Wednesday evening, May 27th, was looked forward to as one of the most pleasant events of the Session, and it is safe to say that all expectations were more than realised. Socially and financially the gathering was a complete success, and Mr. J. D. Stewart, upon whom fell the task of making practically all the arrangements, is to be warmly congratulated on the result. Nearly 150 tickets were disposed of and to judge by the crowded state of the Hall, the majority of them were used. Musical items and dances were pleasantly interspersed, the programme lasting from 7 till 11 o'clock, and notwithstanding the crush, and the warm evening, there was every indication that those present were thoroughly enjoying themselves. Songs were contributed by Miss M. D. Brown, Miss E. Glenister, and Mr. J. D. Stewart (Islington), humorous songs by Mr. W. G. Hawkins (Fulham), a pianoforte duet by Misses H. A. Funnell and C. A. Mitchell (Islington), a pianoforte solo by Miss Lily Moslin, and a violin solo by Mr. A. M. Moslin (Stepney). The musical items were all excellently rendered and encores were numerous, but perhaps the *piece de résistance* of the evening was the humorous sketch, "Lights Out," by Max Pemberton, performed by Misses M. E. Griffiths, E. Bobbitt, G. O. Skuse, E. Glenister, and H. A. Funnell (Islington Libraries Club), and Miss R. L. Duménil (Hackney). The little play was admirably acted and the audience showed its appreciation by frequent hearty laughter and applause.

The hope has been expressed in many quarters that a Social may be made an annual feature of the Session's programme.



# LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

## RULES.

*As amended at the Annual Meeting, held on June 10th, 1908.*

1. NAME.—The Association shall be called "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION."

2. OBJECTS.—Its objects shall be to promote the professional, educational, and social interests of its Members by the reading of original papers, by discussions, by meetings of a social character, and in such other ways as may be suggested from time to time.

3. MEMBERS.—(a) The Association shall consist of Hon. Fellows, Fellows, Members, and Associates. *Hon. Fellows.* The Council shall have power to elect Hon. Fellows, who shall be persons who have specially identified themselves with the objects of the Association. *Fellows.* Persons holding the position of Chief Librarian, but hitherto Members or Associates of the Association, may be elected Fellows. *Members.* All persons engaged in library administration, other than Chief Librarians, shall be eligible for election as Members. *Associates.* All persons engaged in library administration, other than Chief Librarians, whose salary does not exceed £55 per annum, shall be eligible for election as Associates. Such persons may become Members on payment of the Members' subscription. (b) Applications shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, and shall be considered at the next Meeting of the Council. (c) Fellows, Members, and Associates leaving the profession, and Members and Associates being raised to the status of Chief Librarian and not desiring election to Fellowship, shall cease their connection with the Association six months afterwards. (d) The Association shall have power to expel, at an ordinary meeting, after one month's official notice of expulsion shall have been given, any Fellow, Member, or Associate by a vote of 20 % (twenty per cent.) of the total membership of the L.A.A. (or the affiliated Branch to which he belongs) in favour of that course.

4. SUBSCRIPTION. (a) The Annual Subscription shall be 7/6 for Fellows, 5/- for Members, and 2/6 for Associates. Subscriptions are payable in advance on October 1st. (b) Any persons being six months in arrear with their Subscriptions shall cease to belong to the Association.

5. OFFICERS.—The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Council of two Fellows, ten London and ten non-London Members or Associates (not more than two of whom shall be elected from one library district), who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, such Council having power to co-opt a junior representation which shall not exceed five members, to be elected half-yearly, co-opted members not having the power to vote. The Council shall have power to co-opt as members of the Council the Hon. Secretaries or other Officers of Branch Association Committees. (b) In the event of any of these offices falling vacant, the vacancy shall be filled at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association. (c) All classes of members have equal voting powers.

6. MEETINGS.—(a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association fixed to take place sometime during the summer session. (b) Ordinary Meetings shall be held monthly from October to May at such times and place as shall be decided by the Council. (c) Special General Meetings shall be called on the requisition of twelve members of the Association, such meetings to be held within six weeks from the date of receipt of such requisition by the Hon. Secretary. Special Meetings may also be called by the Council.

7. BRANCHES.—Applications for the formation of a Branch shall be made in writing to the Council by not less than ten members in the pro-

posed district. Each Branch shall be bound by the Rules of the Association, but may formulate special Rules for its local government, providing the same are confirmed by the Council. All proposed local Rules must be deposited with the Hon. Secretary of the L.A.A. for approval. Members of a Branch shall pay their subscriptions to the Treasurer of the Branch, who shall remit to the Treasurer of the L.A.A. for every Fellow, 3/6; for every Member, 3/6; and for every Associate, 2/-, to cover the cost of the official publications.

8. PROCEDURE.—Amendments to these Rules shall only be considered at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting ordered by the Council for that purpose. Provincial members shall have the power to vote by letter addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Machine Book-Sewing, with Remarks on Publishers' Binding.* By Geo. A. STEPHEN. (Reprinted from "The Library Association Record.") 26pp., illus., 8vo. 1908. Price 6d. net.

We are pleased to see in pamphlet form Mr. Stephen's paper, embodying the results of his investigations into the methods and principles of machine book-sewing, and the discussion which followed the reading of the paper. The working of the various book-sewing machines and the different kinds of sewing done by them are fully described, and the principles of machine-sewing and hand-sewing are carefully explained and compared. The two specifications of the American Library Association for special library editions are given, as well as an amplified one to meet Mr. Stephen's views. The information is presented in a remarkably clear manner and the plate of illustrations adds to the value of this pioneer article on the subject. The pamphlet should find its way into the hands of every librarian and library assistant, and of all interested in book production and binding. Copies may be purchased at the Library Association Offices, 24, Whitcomb Street, London, W.C. H. S.

#### LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH: Classified Catalogue, 1902-1906: Part IV. —History and Travel, Collected Biography, Individual Biography.

Reports are to hand from Bootle, Battersea, Croydon, Bromley (Kent), Eccles, Hereford, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, and Wimbledon.

Library Magazines from Hampstead, Croydon, Cardiff, Walthamstow, Bromley (Kent), Pittsburgh, Pratt Institute, and Brooklyn.

We have also received the Bulletin of the American Library Association (May), the Wisconsin Library Bulletin (March-April), and the Twenty-first Annual Report of the New York State Library School, 1907.

#### OBITUARY.

We regret to have to record the death of Miss Lettice Verney, second daughter of Sir Edmund and Lady Verney, who passed away on Whit-Sunday. Miss Verney was Honorary Librarian of the Botolph Claydon Public Library, one of a series of charming village libraries in that locality owing their existence largely to the interest and munificence of Sir Edmund Verney. Miss Verney possessed a keen enthusiasm for her Library duties, with the result that the selection of books available is most excellent, whilst the administration of the Library was carried out in a very wise and practical manner. It is a sad pleasure for one acquainted with both the Librarian and the Library to pay this simple tribute to a rare and earnest spirit who had found a good work and rejoiced in performing the multifarious duties connected with it. W. B. T.

NOTE.—The August and September numbers of this journal will be combined and published on September 1st.

All communications relating to this journal should be addressed to the Hon. Editor, Mr. HUGH SMITH, Bishopsgate Institute, London, E.C.